



# Sacramento Public Library

Tom Wheeler  
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

July 7, 2014

Dear Mr. Chairman and Commissioners:

I have been asked two questions:

- 1) How much did it cost the Sacramento Public Library – with a central library and 27 branches – to provide wireline and wireless Internet access to our patrons?
- 2) What is our view about using square footage of buildings to limit the amount of money a public library to obtain from the FCC through the E-Rate program?

The answer to the first question is approximately \$425,000 in refreshing wireline and wireless Internet access to patrons, with an additional amount of approximately \$23,000 was spent on professional consulting services on configuration of the equipment. The costs include routers, switches, Power-over-Ethernet management, wireless access points, firewall, and core network supervisor, wireless network equipment configuration, and hosted services over a five-year period. Prices for hardware are based on a competitive bidding process averaging a 41% discounts rate. To reduce installation costs, we use our own technical personnel for much of the installation, although the installation time is longer. In the next three years, our expectation is to invest a larger amount to refresh the equipment due to increased higher bandwidth demands.

The answer to the second question is that using square footage is unfair to urban libraries, and to our patrons who are disproportionately low-income, unemployed, or underemployed. Our libraries total 448,406 square feet; thus the cost over a five year period of delivering access to digital information is between \$2-\$3 per square foot. However, I should note that the Sacramento Public Library pays a much higher rate for broadband services due to its mixed urban/suburban geographic area over three vendor territories, which raise costs.

With the increased popularity of mobile devices, the demand for more bandwidth and equipment increase. Already, many users now bring in multiple devices into our buildings to access multimedia content, downloading materials, do research, participate in educational and training sessions, course work, or to watch news and other over-the-internet programs.

In many instances, the Wi-Fi hardware shares the same wireline infrastructure (routers, switches), as well as the bandwidth. The benefit for using this model is having a smaller network equipment infrastructure, which leads to bandwidth segmentation. Furthermore, in a Wi-Fi environment, the design of a building sometimes requires less or more wireless equipment due to the nature of the design of the building. Ideally, the Wi-Fi signal should reach every corner of the building, and that requirement additional funding.

Libraries should be allowed to choose the method that benefits them more, and that is by providing funds for higher capacity, such as:

1. Fund public libraries at the rate of no less than \$4 per square foot;
2. Fund public libraries at the rate of \$150 per average daily visitor.

Give libraries the money we need to deliver what is typically the only free public Internet access available in the social landscape, with clear program guidelines with a much shorter application review and award timeline.

Truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerry Calderon", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Gerry Calderon  
Manager, Information Technology  
Sacramento Public Library